



## **UW-Extension Resources for Long-term Care Reform**

### **Introduction**

Wisconsin's reform efforts are exploring initiatives for better managing the services and supports individuals receive and the State resources available for long-term care. This effort is being moved forward by the provision of planning grants to consortia throughout the state. The voice of consumers has been and will continue to be a key to successful implementation of long-term care reform.

Consumers need knowledge and skills so they can most effectively participate in such planning and provide advice and direction about local development of programs and use of long-term care resources. By partnering with UW-Extension local planning groups can leverage existing local resources through UW-Extension staff to provide education and skills development in the areas of long-term care, community development and strategic planning. As a result, consumers will be more effective and influential and consortia will be able to solicit meaningful and effective stakeholder involvement including consumers.

UW-Extension also has expertise on family caregiving needs and is involved in training professionals on appropriate educational community interventions. By educating family caregivers, who are the foundation of the long-term care system, families can continue their various caregiver roles and responsibilities while maintaining their own health and well-being.

### **Benefit of Partnering with UW-Extension**

This project will enable UW-Extension staff in three to four of the consortia to provide training, consultation and technical assistance to the planning collaboratives. UW-Extension will build its own knowledge base about Wisconsin's long-term care system making it more informed and able to respond to the needs of the planning collaboratives. Local UW-Extension agents may provide expertise in stakeholder involvement, group facilitation, strategic planning, organizational development, and family care giving. The project will initially focus on providing support to consumers and members of three to four planning consortia. The impact of this project could have more long-term effects as other UW-Extension staff, besides those identified in this project, become involved in training of local long-term care governing bodies by drawing on the experience of those involved in this project and the resources created to support them.

## **Goals of the Project between DHFS and UW-Extension are to:**

1. Foster effective local long-term care systems through strong consumer leadership and involvement in the long-term care reform planning process.
2. Strengthen stakeholder voices in the long-term care reform planning process.
3. Enable consumers and members of long-term care reform consortia to build high quality local long-term care systems by effectively participating in their design, evaluation and improvement.
4. Enhance the capacity (knowledge and resources) of local UW-Extension staff providing educational support to local long-term care governing bodies.
5. Make use of and/or develop educational resources for consumers and local long-term care governing bodies.

## **What has DHFS Purchased from UW-Extension?**

DHFS has purchased 50 percent of Trempealeau County Community Development Educator, Pat Malone's time. She has worked with her county's long-term care council and has provided leadership training, strategic planning, organizational development, stakeholder involvement, and group facilitation. She will be the lead person working with the regional consortia and identifying local UW-Extension staff who may be available to assist. UW-Extension has committed a portion of Dr. Mary Brintnall-Peterson's time to the project. She is a Program Specialist in Aging and provides training and research on family care-giving issues. She will be the lead contact working with DHFS at the state level. Both Pat and Mary are active members of the State and Local Stakeholder Advisory Committee of the Wisconsin Council on Long Term Care.

Consortia are not required to work with UW-Extension on their long-term care reform planning effort. It is another resource the State is making available to help such groups achieve their planning objectives.

## **What is UW-Extension?**

UW-Extension may be the best-kept secret in your county. It is part of the University of Wisconsin system that has an office in every county – typically located in the county seat. UW-Extension's mission is to expand the resources of the University System to every citizen in the state. Cooperative Extension is one part of UW-Extension and is the division that supports the work of community development and family living education.

Local educators and state specialists staff the organization. The local educators provide education and facilitation on a variety of issues to a wide array of clients and organizations locally and throughout Wisconsin.

An extensive network of state specialists is also part of UW-Extension. These are individuals housed in universities who provide education and applied research on issues of statewide and regional importance. These specialists represent an incredible range of academic disciplines from strategic planning to family care giving to health policy to

local government finance to business development to community health and beyond.  
(Learn more about Cooperative Extension at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/>).

### **How can planning groups access UW-Extension resources for long-term care reform?**

Contact Pat Malone or Mary Brintnall-Peterson to discuss the situation and potential needs of your planning group and the resources UW-Extension has available. Actual programming offered varies depending on local priorities and the skills of the educators. Pat or Mary will help make contact with a local educator to get involved in this project and discuss the needs of the consortium. Local UW-Extension staff typically responds to educational and facilitation requests at the local level.

### **What if planning groups have more questions?**

Contact one of the following individuals.

Pat Malone  
Community Development Educator  
UW-Extension Trempealeau County  
715-538-2311 ext. 211 (office)  
715-538-4210 (fax)  
608-790-4615 (cell)  
[patricia.malone@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:patricia.malone@ces.uwex.edu)

or

Mary Brintnall-Peterson, Ph.D.  
Program Specialist in Aging  
UW-Extension  
608-262-8083 (office)  
608-265-0787 (fax)  
[Mary.Brintnall-Peterson@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:Mary.Brintnall-Peterson@ces.uwex.edu)

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating.  
UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA.